

AMERICAN MUSEUM NOVITATES

Number 922

Published by
THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
New York City

May 4, 1937

RESULTS OF THE ARCHBOLD EXPEDITIONS. No. 15¹

A NEW FISH OF THE GENUS *BOSTRYCHUS* FROM NEW GUINEA

BY J. T. NICHOLS

In a small collection of fresh-water fishes brought to The American Museum of Natural History by the 1936 New Guinea Expedition led by Mr. Richard Archbold, there is a goby of the genus *Bostrychus* with a distinctive color pattern, which is apparently more like *Bostrychus sinensis* Lacépède than *B. zonatus* Weber described from there in 1907. I believe it represents an undescribed species, which I will call *Bostrychus strigogenys* from the conspicuous dark stripes on the white lower part of the face behind the eye.

***Bostrychus strigogenys*, new species**

DESCRIPTION OF TYPE.—No. 13652, American Museum of Natural History, from the Upper Fly River, Papua, W. D., 5 miles below Palmer Junction, collected in the latter part of May, 1936, by R. Archbold, A. L. Rand and G. H. H. Tate.

Length to base of caudal, 135 mm. Depth in this length, 6.5; head, 3.7. Eye in head, 7; snout, 3.8; interorbital, 2.8; maxillary, 2.2; width of head, 1.4; pectoral 2; ventral, 2.1; longest ray of first dorsal, 5; of second dorsal, 3; of anal, 3; caudal, 1.5; distance between dorsals, 4.

Dorsal rays, VI—12; anal, 11. Scales, about 120.

Head broad, depressed in front, the body cylindrical in front, compressed behind. Jaws equal, the mouth only slightly oblique, the maxillary to beyond the posterior margin of eye; anterior nostril in a tube, remote from the posterior and adjacent to the upper jaw; eye well forward, slightly superolateral; interorbital space broad, slightly concave; gill membranes meeting under the middle of, and joined within to the isthmus under the posterior end of the preopercle; teeth in broad bands on jaws, in a broad triangle with corners produced somewhat backward, on vomer. Pectorals and caudal rounded; first dorsal low, well separated from the second, its rays weak. Scales smooth and irregular, becoming small and imbedded on breast and head.

Dark above and on upper two thirds of side; contrastingly white below from breast to peduncle and on lower part of cheek and opercles; dark meeting white on the sides in a very irregular line, with an upward streak of white on one side of the peduncle, a spot on the other; three dark stripes slant downward and backward across the face, the middle one from below the eye, the lowest from the maxillary, the upper two boldly contrasted against the white background; lower jaw across branchio-

¹ This is the second ichthyological paper based on material collected by Archbold Expeditions to New Guinea. American Museum Novitates No. 755, Nichols and Raven, November 17, 1934, antedates establishment of the series numbers in 1935.

stegals gray. Fins all dark, the ventrals bordered with pale, and the vertical fins with slight pale edges; a black area on the upper caudal base bordered in front by a semicircle of pale to form an imperfect ocellus, and a pale mark on the lower caudal base below this; 2 or 3 faint vertical rows of pale spots across caudal.

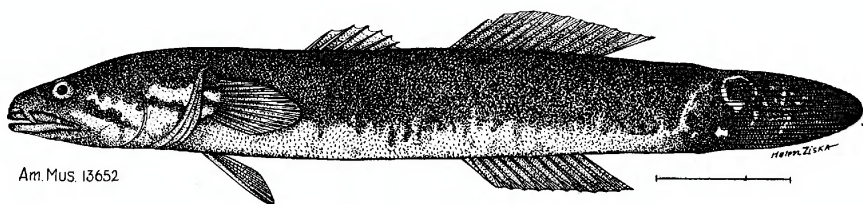


Fig. 1.—*Bostrychus strigogenys*, type.

There are 5 paratypes measuring from 45 mm. to 162 mm. in standard length. All of them show dark and white striping across the lower face somewhat in this pattern though in no two alike. In the smallest the white stripes are narrow; in the largest they are of about equal width with the dark, the uppermost dark stripe and a white stripe above it extending obliquely onto the base of the pectoral; a third specimen has merely a few white marks imperfectly delimiting the dark stripe areas, and this is also least white below; and in another specimen the central dark stripe only is present in a large white field, and imperfect on one side of the fish. All have an imperfect caudal ocellus variously indicated.

In these paratypes the dorsal rays vary from VI—12 to VI—14, anal from 10 to 11; scales from about 120 to 130; depth of body in length from 5.8 to 7; head from 3.4 to 3.8; interorbital in head from 2.8 to 2.9. The eye measurement in head, alone shows a progressive change with the size of fish, 5 at 45 mm., 6.3 at 98 mm., 7 at 113 mm., 7.5 at 144 mm., and 8 at 162 mm.

